

WHOM TO CONTACT ABOUT SUMP PUMP ISSUES

➤ COMPLAINTS:

Contact the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Housing Code Enforcement Section, at 240-777-3785.

➤ FEASIBILITY OF CONNECTIONS:

Contact the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Division of Operations, Highway Maintenance Section at 240-777-ROAD to determine what discharge/outfall options may be available.

➤ RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMITS:

Contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services, Right-of-Way Permitting & Plan Review Section, at 240-777-6320.

Montgomery County Maryland

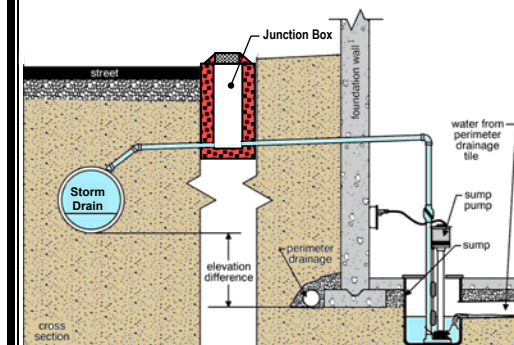


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SUMP-PUMP DISCHARGES IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
MARYLAND
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November, 2004

Montgomery County Policy For Sump-Pump Discharges

This publication was developed to educate County citizens about the requirements for discharging sump pumps into the public right-of-way. Citizens are often unaware of these requirements, or may not realize that their sump pumps are discharging onto public property.

The Montgomery County Code requires that a permit be obtained to place any object or structure in a County right-of-way.

A right-of-way is a strip of land occupied by a road, sidewalk, utility pipeline or other special use that the County “owns” and regulates. A right-of-way normally extends 10 to 17 feet beyond the edge of the paved roadway into the frontage of adjacent property.

Sump-pump discharges into rights-of-way must be regulated to protect public safety and prevent the creation of public nuisances. (NOTE: Property owners with sump-pump drainage pipes located in the County right-of-way must execute a “Declaration of Covenants” for maintenance of the system and indemnification of the County.)

There are several permissible ways to discharge a sump pump into a right-of-way. These include:

- Discharge to an existing public underground storm-drain pipe, inlet, or manhole: This option requires that the private discharge pipes have back-flow-prevention valves to prevent public-storm-drain discharges from entering private outfall pipes.
- Discharge to a curb outlet: This type of installation involves installing the sump-pump-discharge pipe through the curb to allow the sump-pump drainage to flow into the gutter adjacent to the curb and then to an existing storm-drain system. This type of connection is approved on a case-by-case basis, because it could create icy road conditions should the discharge freeze during cold weather.
- Discharge to an outfall in the roadside swale on roadways without curbs: With this option, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the discharge does not erode the swale. Erosion-control measures may require the installation of a paved flume or specialty erosion-control matting.
- Discharge into the right-of-way alternatively: If sump-pump connections to storm-drain systems, curbs, and roadside swales are not possible, then private sump-pump discharge pipes may be installed in other ways approved by the County, as long as the connections will not cause icing or erosion problems.

